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BY

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MEMORIAL MEDALS.

During the lifetime of Washington his effigy and name appeared on many medals, some struck here, and others originating abroad. One of the latter, said to be ¹ the first of the Washington medals, was designed and struck by order of Voltaire. Oddly enough it bears the bust of Bentham, or according to another authority, of Hume, but certainly not that of him whose fame it was intended to commemorate.

In the bill for the establishment of the mint of the United States as it originated in the senate, it was provided that there should be placed on the coins "a representation of the head of the president," but this was amended in the lower house by substituting "upon one side of said coins there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty." Doubtless this action of Congress was in accordance with the expressed wish of the president, and it is stated that at his suggestion the head of liberty was substituted for his own.

Prior, however, to the establishment of the mint, several coins made their appearance in silver and copper, bearing on the obverse the bust of Washington, and on the reverse an eagle and shield, with appropriate inscriptions. These are the celebrated Washington half dollars and cents, so highly prized by American numismatists and collectors. In the absence of positive knowledge, there is good reason for believing that while a portion of these pieces were of native American origin, others were of English design and manufacture.

One of these coins bearing date 1792, and known to collectors as the "naked bust Washington cent," it is quite certain is neither more nor less than an English tradesman's token, and yet it is so rare, and deemed by collectors so desirable, that a

¹ Mass. Hist. Col. III. vi, 236.

specimen sold at auction in New York not long since, produced the comparatively enormous sum of four hundred and eighty dollars, and some of the Washington half dollars are held to be nearly, or quite as valuable.

As it would be impracticable in the space here allowed to give even a list of the known medals of Washington, it is only proposed to furnish brief descriptions of a portion of the medallie memorials of his *death*. It may be mentioned that in a single collection sold in New York in the early part of the present year (1865), no less than 377 varieties of the Washington pieces were offered, and it is supposed that a *perfect* collection would comprise as many as 690 varieties.

A singular discrepancy will be noticed in the date of death as given by different authorities—varying from the 14th to the 21st of December, and comprising no less than four distinct dates, namely: the 14th, 15th, 17th, and 21st.

As this article may fall under the eye of some person not familiar with the terms used in the description of medals, it is proper for the writer to state that the abbreviation Oby. is for Obverse, the face or principal side of a coin or medal—Rev. for Reverse—Ins. for Inscription, and Leg. for Legend. The size as given, indicates the diameter in sixteenths of an inch, or according to the American scale; for example, a medal of size 24 is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, while one of size 48 is of the diameter of 3 inches. This system of measurement is much more simple than that by the scale of Mionnet commonly used abroad, in which the divisions are irregular, and entirely arbitrary.

No. 1. Indian or Peace Medal.

Oby., bust of Washington on a pedestal, on which is depicted a landscape, ship sailing, man ploughing, military trophies, &c. On the right stands a figure representing Liberty, and on the left an Indian chief. Leg., GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. In the exergue, BORN FEBRUARY, 1732; DIED DECEMBER, 1799. Rev., plain. Silver, size 40.

A medal of very rare occurrence. One may be seen in the cabinet of the mint at Philadelphia.

No. 2. The Eccleston Medal.

Obv., a beautifully executed bust, but a poor likeness, facing right. Under the shoulder the name of the artist, Webb. Ins., GENERAL WASHINGTON, INSCRIBED TO HIS MEMORY BY D. ECCLESTON, LANCASTER, MDCCCV. Rev., in the centre an Indian standing, leaning on a bow and holding in his right hand an arrow. Around the Indian, THE LAND WAS OURS. The whole surrounded with the inscription in three concentric circles: HE LAID THE FOUNDATION OF AMERICAN LIBERTY IN THE XVIII CENTURY. INNUMERABLE MILLIONS YET UNBORN WILL VENERATE THE MEMORY, OF THE MAN WHO OBTAINED THEIR COUNTRY'S FREEDOM.

Bronze, size 51.

This medal designed by, and executed at the expense of an English admirer of Washington, is perhaps the finest of the series. Though the dies are probably no longer in existence, fine specimens are easily procured either here or in England.

No. 3. The Eccleston Medal.

In white metal or tin. A single specimen in this metal exists in the cabinet of Wm. S. Appleton, Esq., of Boston. It was discovered in a collection recently brought to notice in New York, which had scarcely seen the light for half a century. It is probably unique.

No. 4. The Cabinet Medal.

Obv., a panel bearing the bust of Washington facing right, with the engraver's name below.—On a raised rim the Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN FEBRUARY 22, 1732; DIED DECEMBER 14, 1799. Rev., on a panel, a representation of the Washington Cabinet in the mint of the United States at Philadelphia. (The cabinet is monumental in form, surmounted by a bust and surrounded by a railing.) Leg., WASHINGTON CABINET OF MEDALS; UNITED STATES MINT; INAUGURATED FEBRUARY 22, 1869.

Bronze, size 38.

A fine medal, designed and executed by A. C. Paquet, by

order of Colonel James Ross Snowden, while the latter was director of the mint. The dies of this piece are the property of the government, and the medals struck in various metals may be procured at the mint.

No. 5. The larger, Perkins Medal.

Obv., bust facing left within a wreath of laurel. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON. Rev., a tomb inscribed VICTOR SINE CLADE. The tomb surmounted by an urn, by the side of which a child is weeping. In the back ground implements of war; at the left a female figure weeping and supporting with her right hand the shield of the United States. Leg., HE IS IN GLORY, THE WORLD IN TEARS. In the exergue, BORN FEBRUARY 11, 1732. Tin, size 36.

Dudley A. Tying was the designer of this medal and the credit of execution has usually been accorded to Jacob Perkins. The dies were made in the shop of Jacob Perkins, but the work was by Nicholas Pearce, who died within a few years at an advanced age in Newburyport. Mr. Pearce retained in his possession till his death, one of the earliest and finest impressions, always refusing for it the most tempting offers. After his death it was purchased of Mrs. Pearce, and having passed through various hands has found a permanent resting place in a celebrated collection.

No. 6. The smaller, Perkins Medal.

Obv., bust in military costume, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Leg., HE IS IN GLORY, THE WORLD IN TEARS. Rev., a funereal urn inscribed G. W., and nearly surrounded by the following inscription in two concentric lines: B. F. 11, 1732. G. A. ARM. 75 R. 83: P. U. S. A. 89. G. ARM. U. S. 98: OB. D. 14, 1799. Silver, size 18.

No. 7. The smaller, Perkins Medal—second variety.

Obv., same as that of the medal last described. Rev., a skull and cross bones, and in four concentric lines the Ins. B. FEB. 11, 1732. GEN. AM. ARMIES, 1775. RE. 1783.

PRES. U. S. AM. 89. R. 96. GEN. ARM. U. S. AM. 98.
OB. D. 15, 99. Silver, size 18.

The dies for this piece and the preceding were designed and probably cut by Jacob Perkins, at Newburyport, in Mass. The medals being worn by many who took part in the funeral solemnities at that place, were very extensively distributed over the country. They were made in various other metals besides silver. The first variety is often met with in tin; a few exist in gold and one specimen only is known in copper.

The second variety which is much less common than the first is usually found in silver. A single ORIGINAL is known in gold.

These pieces have always been favorites with collectors and owing to their rarity, have, whenever offered, commanded very liberal prices, but the recent *discovery* in New York of a quantity of each variety in both gold and silver causes the ORIGINALS to be held in less esteem than formerly; the DISCOVERY alluded to, having brought out a supply injudiciously LARGE when taken in connection with the moderate demand.

No. 8. Oval Funeral Medal.

Obv., head facing left, with the initials G. W. below. The whole surrounded by a wreath of laurel. Leg., HE IS IN GLORY, THE WORLD IN TEARS. Rev., plain.

Gold—oval, 17 by 19.

Two specimens are known in gold, and one in copper. One of the rarest and most beautiful of the medallie memorials of Washington; its origin is not known, but it is probably from a die by Perkins. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that for the obverses of his small funeral medals he cut no less than four or five distinct dies, all of which in design and workmanship bear general resemblance to this. Being oval it was probably rejected for unsuitableness of form, after taking from it a few trial impressions. No corresponding reverse is known to exist.

No. 9. Lovett's Medal.

Obv., undraped bust facing to the right. Ins., GEOR-

GIUS WASHINGTON. PRIM. PRIM. REP. CONF. AMER. MDCCLXXXIX. Beneath the bust, Lovett, Phila. Reverse, a beautiful figure of Minerva seated; at her left hand an altar and in her right a laurel wreath. Surrounding the figure a wreath of palm leaves and the inscription: FIDELI CERTA MERCUS; within the circle the date 1860 in Roman numerals. Leg., NATUS. FEB. xxii, MDCCLXXXII. OBIT. DEC. xiv, MDCCLXCIX. Bronze, size 33.

The dies for this medal are by Robert Lovett, Jr., of Philadelphia. The work is very creditable to the artist, especially in comparison with most American medals of Washington. The dies still exist and the medal may be procured in various metals.

$\frac{1}{2}$ No. 10. Washington, Kosciusko and Lafayette Medal.

Obv., three busts facing left. Leg., TO THE HEROES OF LIBERTY THE FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENCE. The name of the artist, Rogat, in the exergue. Rev., three oak wreaths and three inscriptions as follows: GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN THE 22d FEB'Y, 1732, AT BRIDGE CREEK, DIED THE 14TH DECEMBER, 1799, AT MOUNT VERNON. THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO, BORN THE 12TH FEB'Y, 1746, AT MERUZOVSZEYZNA, DIED THE 16TH OCTOBER, 1817, AT SOLEURE. LAFAYETTE M. J. P. R. Y. GILBERT DU MOTTHIER, BORN THE 6TH OF SEPTEMBER, 1757, AT CHAVINLAC, DIED THE 20TH MAY, 1834, IN PARIS. In the exergue, CERCLE BRITANNIQUE, RUE NEUVE, ST. AUGUSTINE, No. 58 A PARIS. Bronze, size 32.

No. 11. Series Numismatica.

Head facing right; beneath, BACON SCULP. Leg., GEORGIUS WASHINGTON. Rev., NATUS VIRGINIAE IN AMERICA FOEDERATA. M. DCC. XXXII. OBIT. AN. M. DCC. XCIX. SERIES NUMISMATICA UNIVERSALIS VIRORUM ILLUSTRUM. M. DCCC. XIX. DURAND EDIDIT.

Bronze, size 26.

The bust on this medal bears not the slightest resemblance

to any likeness of Washington and was probably engraved for some other person and *adapted* to its present use.

No. 12. Series Numismatica—second variety.

Oby., head facing left. Leg., GEORGIUS WASHINGTON.

Rev., same as the preceding. Bronze, size 26.

No. 13. Series Numismatica—third variety.

Oby., head facing left. Leg., GEORGIUS WASHINGTON.

Below the bust, VIVIER F. Rev., same as the two preceding.

An error will be noticed in the legend, the occurrence of which probably led to the rejection of the die. Bronze, size 26.

The three medals last described are of French workmanship and form part of the very extensive "Series Numismatica." Most of the dies still exist and fine sets can be imported at a cost of about one dollar each piece with the exception of the Washingtons and a few others relating to America, which command a somewhat higher price.

No. 14.

Oby., at top of the medal an eagle holding in its talons the arrows and olive branch, and in its beak a scroll inscribed E PLURIBUS UNUM, head facing right at the bottom in a small oval panel, around which is the inscription, GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN 1732, DIED 1799. On each side twelve stars and across the field in four lines the ins., FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN PEACE, AND FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN. Rev., a woman seated, writing in a library. Ins., SCIENTIA MORES EMOLLIT. Tin, size 34.

No. 15.

Oby., from the same die as the last. Rev., a library with books and other appropriate accessories. A man seated at a table reading—in the exergue—VIA AD HONOREM.

Tin, size 34.

The dies of the last two medals were made in England by David Binn, whose name appears on them. The fact that a very fine

specimen of each medal was found quite recently in the sample drawer of Mr. Davis, an old die-sinker at Birmingham, where it was known that they had been for more than thirty years renders it tolerably certain that they were made in his establishment.

No. 16. The Westwood Medal.

Oby., bust facing right, the name of the engraver, Westwood, beneath the shoulder. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ., LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Rev., a wreath composed of bundles of laurel leaves alternating with stars, above a bundle of thirteen arrows. Leg., MADE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN FORCES THE 15TH JUNE 1775. Ins., WITH COURAGE AND FIDELITY HE DEFENDED THE RIGHTS OF A FREE PEOPLE. DIED DEC. 14. 1799, AGED 68. Bronze, size 25.

The Westwood medal is of English origin and of fine workmanship.

No. 17. The Westwood Medal.

In tin. But one or two specimens are known in this metal.

No. 18. The smaller Westwood Medal.

Oby., bust in civil costume facing right, features bearing marks of age. The hair cut very short. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON. OB. 14TH DEC'R. 1799, Æ. 68. Rev., a wreath of oak and laurel, the divisions marked by thirteen stars; thirteen arrow points above. Leg., LATE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Ins., THE HERO OF FREEDOM, THE PRIDE OF HIS COUNTRY AND ORNAMENT OF HUMAN NATURE, 1800. Bronze, size 23.

A medal rarer than the preceding, but of workmanship much like the last and said to be by the same artist. A person who spoke from personal knowledge informed the writer that the dies for this medal and the last, together with many others, were used as paving blocks to form a garden walk in Birmingham, England.

No. 19. The Wright Medal.

Obv., head facing left; initials of the engraver below. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON. Rev., a wreath of oak surrounding the inscription in six parallel lines, BORN FEB. 22D, 1732; CHOSEN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JULY, 1799; CHOSEN PRESIDENT, 1789; DIED DEC'R 14, 1799, AGED 68 YEARS.

Silver, size 28.

Dies by C. C. Wright of New York. Struck also in copper and in tin.

No. 20. The Wright and Bale Medal.

Both obverse and reverse of this medal so nearly resemble the last that a single description will do for both. The design is almost identical but the work is somewhat different, and it is not unlikely was executed jointly by the artists whose names it bears.

Tin, size 28.

Less frequently met with than the last.

No. 21.

Obv., bust facing left. Leg., GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON. Rev., a wreath of oak leaves and acorns enclosing the inscription: BORN FEB. 22D, 1732; DIED DEC. 14, 1799.

Tin, size 26.

A medal of great rarity; one specimen is to be seen in the mint cabinet at Philadelphia and another is contained in the collection of Wm. S. Appleton, Esq., of Boston.

No. 22.

Obv., bust facing; beneath the shoulder I. B. C. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN FEB'Y 22, 1732, DIED DEC'R 14, 1799. Rev., an eye from which rays are thrown half across the field of the medal. A laurel wreath encircles the inscription, A MAN HE WAS TO ALL HIS COUNTRY DEAR.

Copper, size 25.

A medal, the dies for which were cut many years ago by one Gardiner. They remained unused and unknown until within a short time, when they were brought to light and used to strike a very few impressions in copper and tin and still

fewer in silver, after which they were destroyed. For hideous ugliness the bust on this medal is unrivalled at present, and it is doubtful if it can ever be equalled in the future.

No. 23. The Fame Medal.

Obv., bust in citizen's dress facing right. H., under the shoulder. Leg., WASHINGTON, BORN FEB. 11, 1732, DIED DEC. 21, 1799. Rev., a view of sea and land—the sun just rising—a ship in the distance—flying above, a beautiful figure of Fame with trumpet and wreath of laurel. Leg., WISDOM, VIRTUE AND PATRIOTISM. In the exergue, MDCCCLIII.

Bronze, size 22.

The dies for this, which is not only one of the finest but also one of the rarest of the funeral medals, were made in England. The artist's name is unknown.

No. 24. The Fame Medal.

From the *Weekly Museum*, a paper published in New York, July 24, 1802, I make the following extract: "Mr. Evans during a tour through several parts of England and Wales, remarks in a letter to a pupil that in Birmingham he purchased a very handsome medal of the great Washington; round the profile were these words: GEORGE WASHINGTON, OB. 14TH DEC., 1799, ÆT. 68. On the reverse was the figure of Fame with her trumpet, having this inscription encircled with oak and laurel, EMANCIPATOR OF AMERICA."

The size and metal are not mentioned, and the medal, if now existing, must be of extreme rarity.

No. 25. The Wyon Medal.

Bust in citizen's dress facing right; beneath the shoulder, "Wyon." Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN FEB. 11, 1732, DIED DEC. 21, 1799. Rev., caduceus with cannon and bundle of fasces crossed. On a scroll, REPUB. AMERI. Ins., in three concentric circles, GEN'L OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES, 1775. RESIGN'D THE COMM'D, 1783. ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789. RESIGNED THE PRESIDENCY, 1796.

Bronze, size 21.

Of the Wyon medals there are two varieties, the first bearing on the obv. GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1796. Both varieties are met with in copper and in tin. The dies were made in England.

No. 26.

Obv., Military bust facing left. Leg., GEORGE WASHINGTON, DIED 14TH DECEMBER, 1799, AGED 68. Rev., GENERAL OF THE AMERICAN ARMIES, 1775. RESIGNED THE COMMAND 1783. ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789. REELECTED 1793. RESIGNED 1797. Inscribed in nine parallel lines. Tin, size 22.

An exceedingly rare medal. The dies by Wyon.

The preceding catalogue embraces nearly all the medals struck prior to 1840 in commemoration of the death of Washington, together with a few of later issue, which from their superiority of execution or some other circumstance, seemed to merit an extended description.

The following list comprises only a few of the most prominent of a multitude of comparatively recent issue. Most of them are of very inferior workmanship and were manufactured by die-sinkers who, with more regard for money than reputation have sought by the multiplication of new things to supply the demand existing, for all that relates however remotely, to the great Washington. A few, particularly those emanating from the mint are not destitute of merit as works of art.

No. 27. Merriam's Medalet.

Obv., bust with date of birth. Rev., a tomb, with date of death, &c. Struck in various metals, size 20.

No. 28.

Obv., same as No. 22. Rev., bust of President Lincoln, with inscription. A very few of these were struck in several metals, probably not more than eight or ten in all. Size 25.

No. 29.

Obv., same as the last. Rev., an eagle holding the olive branch and arrows and surrounded by thirty-four stars. Struck in various metals but even less common than the preceding.

Size 25.

No. 30. Cogan's Medalet.

Obv., bust facing right, "George Washington." Rev., within a wreath, "Born Feb'y 22, 1732, died Dec. 14, 1799."

Various metals.

Size 20.

No. 31. New York Medalet.

Obv., bust facing right, "George Washington, born 1732, died 1799." Rev., arms of the State of New York. In the exergue, N. Y.

Tin, size 16.

The dies of this medal are now in the writer's possession; they were made many years ago at the establishment of Davis, a famous die-sinker at Birmingham, England. Though bearing the name of Davis, the work was by Carter.

No. 33. Monument Medalet.

Obv., undraped bust facing left. Ins., name, date of birth and death. Rev., view of the Baltimore monument surrounded by inscription and wreath.

Various metals, size 12.

The obverse die of this piece has been used with several reverse dies, thus producing a great variety of pieces technically called *mules*.

No. 34.

Obv., Washington on horseback. Ins., THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY, with date of birth and death. Rev., a perpetual calendar.

Brass, size 21.

No. 35.

Obv., full length figure of Washington (after the "Washington before Trenton," in the Trumbull Gallery, at Yale College). Ins., date of birth and death. Rev., a perpetual calendar.

Brass, size 22.

No. 36.

Obv., bust facing right. Ins., GEORGE WASHINGTON, BORN FEBRUARY 22ND, 1732, DIED DEC. 14, 1799. Rev., a perpetual calendar.
Brass, size 25.

No. 37. Curtis' Medalet.

Obv., bust half length. Ins., date of birth, death, &c.
Various metals, size 20.

No. 38. Equestrian Medalet.

Obv., Washington on horseback. Ins., GEORGE WASHINGTON. Rev., a circle of liberty caps surrounding an inscription giving the date of birth, elections to the presidency and death.
In various metals, size 18.

No. 39. Robinson's Medalet.

Obv., bust surrounded with ornamental scroll work and inscription. Rev., a wreath surrounding an inscription in nine lines, giving date of birth, prominent events in life, and date of death.
In various metals, size 21.

No. 40. The Mint Memorial.

Obv., a very beautifully executed bust facing right. Rev., a wreath enclosing an inscription giving date of birth and death.
Silver, gold and bronze, size 11.

No. 41.

Obv., bust facing right. Rev., shield and wreaths. "Born 1732, died 1799."
Silver, size 19.

No. 42.

Obv., same as the last. Rev., liberty cap with rays, stars and eagles, "Washington, natus 1732, obit 1799."
Silver, size 19.

No. 43.

Obv., undraped bust facing left. Rev., shield, "Born 1732, died 1799."
Silver, size 19.

No. 44.

Obv., same as the last. Rev., "Washington, natus 1732, obit 1799." Silver, size 19.

No. 45.

Obv., equestrian statue at New York; two varieties, the obverse being struck with the reverse of each of the last two medals described. Silver, size 19.

No. 46.

Obv., equestrian statue at Richmond; two varieties; reverses similar to the preceding. Silver, size 19.

No. 47.

Obv., Tomb at Mt. Vernon, Va. Rev., a shield, "Born 1732, died 1799." Silver, size 19.

No. 48. Calendar for 1863.

Obv., "Washington, born Feb'y 22, 1732, died Dec'r 1799." Brass, size 26.



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